

SAT/ACT SCORES

Aside from your grades, your performance on the SAT or ACT is crucial to an academy's selection decision. The academies receive too many applications to judge each one on an entirely subjective basis. Most of what is known comes from your high school grades and standardized test scores. Once your file has been assessed, it will be assigned a scaled score. Without an adequate scaled score, your application will not be considered.

You should register for these tests early in your junior year. This will give you time to re-take the tests if you feel that your initial scores are not reflective of your true potential. Information regarding testing dates may be obtained through your high school counselor.

The Army (West Point), Air Force, and Naval Academies will consider your highest verbal and math scores should you retake the tests, but the Merchant Marine Academy will average your scores.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND PHYSICAL APTITUDE

Medical requirements vary between academies. All candidates must take a Qualifying Medical Exam (QME). Please contact the academies or visit their websites if you have any questions about your eligibility. The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review board (DoDMERB) will schedule the exam and evaluate the results once an admission file has been opened. If DoDMERB finds a disqualifying condition, it is up to the academy whether to issue a waiver or not. It is important to schedule your QME as early as possible to allow time to resolve any potential medical issues. There is no cost to you for the exam.

All of the academies require applicants to pass a Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA). The purpose of this test is to evaluate your coordination, strength, speed, agility, and physical endurance. You will receive information from the academy as to how the CFA must be conducted and it will be your responsibility to ensure the results are then sent to the academy. It is very important that each applicant maintain a rigorous exercise program in preparation for attending the academies.

It is highly recommended that you have completed your QME and CFA prior to your interview with this office.

INTERVIEW

The interviews are conducted in either November or December. You will be informed by email of the date and time of your interview. If there are problems with the date and time of your scheduled interview please contact my district office to address any changes that need to be made.

Please don't feel discouraged if you have to request another date and time, just make sure to let the district office know promptly. We will do Skype interviews when absolutely necessary.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT DATES

Representative Kilmer will submit his nominations to the academies in December or early January. The academies will notify nominees of an offer of appointment sometime between January and July.

All questions, concerns and requests for assistance must be addressed to the district office point-of-contact Eric Williams. Contact information is below:

Representative Derek Kilmer
ATTN: Eric Williams
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1230
Tacoma, WA 98402

Eric.Williams@mail.house.gov

Phone Number: (253) 272-3515

ADDITIONAL NOMINATION INFORMATION

In order to be considered for a nomination, a candidate must:

1. Reside in the 6th Congressional District. Applicants whose parents are active-duty military and are stationed in district but have legal addresses in another district or state, should contact the appropriate Congressional office from that area. (You can verify your residency by contacting Rep. Kilmer's office or online at <http://www.house.gov>.)
2. Be at least 17 years old, and not have passed your 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year of admission.
3. Be a United States citizen.
4. Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have not incurred obligations of parenthood.
5. Be of excellent moral character.

A competitive candidate will typically exhibit the following qualifications:

1. Minimum SAT scores of 500 in each of the three sections of the test (Mathematics, Critical Reading, and Writing), or minimum ACT scores of 25 in English and 28 in Mathematics, with an average of all four tests at a minimum score of 24.
2. A ranking in the upper 20 percent of his/her class.
3. Notable participation and performance in extracurricular activities, including leadership roles.
4. Excellent health (medical fitness) and physical aptitude.

NOMINATION PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS

*****DO NOT submit your package until it is complete. Incomplete packages will be returned to be corrected.*****

1. Submit all materials in a double pocket portfolio folder with your name on the front. Your nomination package must be organized, legible, and in order of numerical assignment.
2. Please do not staple any of your paperwork.
3. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure your package is received in one of the district offices no later than November 20, 2015 at 5:00pm. You are encouraged to call and check the status of your package to make sure all is in order.**
4. *Application form:* The district application form can be found on my website at <http://kilmer.house.gov/service-academy-nominations/service-academy-nominations-form>

Please be aware that you will not be considered for a nomination to an academy *unless you have also opened a candidate file with that particular academy.* If you have not, please do so before you send a completed packet to one of the district offices.

5. *High School Transcript:* Sealed and certified; it is submitted as part of the nomination package. You may have it forwarded directly from your school.
6. *First quarter senior grades or Quarter/Semester progress report:* An official print-out from your school's website can fulfill this requirement. If you have graduated high school, you will also need to provide grades/progress report from all higher education institutions you have attended.
7. *SAT/ACT Scores:* Official Student Score Reports or copies of these sheets are preferred, but website printouts are acceptable if necessary. *Copied information on transcripts provided by your school is not acceptable.*
8. *Resume:* Please do not exceed two pages in length. You may use any standard resume format that best highlights your particular accomplishments.
9. *Personal Letter/Essay:* This is your best opportunity to provide an inside look into your thoughts, ideas, and goals concerning your possible appointment to an academy and your subsequent service to your country. There is no length requirement, but please realize this will be a nominal factor in your interview process. The letter should aptly express to Representative Kilmer your reasons for attending an academy and your future goals upon graduation.
10. *Letters of Recommendation:* We require three letters of recommendation. One must be from an invested teacher, guidance counselor, or principal of your high school. Letters of recommendation should be written by individuals who can assess your character, leadership ability, and participation in activities outside of academics. Submit your letters with your complete package in sealed envelopes; please avoid having individuals send their letters of recommendation directly to the office if possible.
11. *Photo:* Please submit a recent photo of yourself no larger than 5x7 inches in size. It doesn't have to be a school photo. You may use this as an additional opportunity to express yourself as an individual or to highlight one of your accomplishments.

PERSONAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ 1. Have you filled out the online application and sent it to a district office? Have you registered as a candidate with the academy(ies) you wish to be considered for?
- ☐ 2. Have you included your high school transcripts, sealed and certified?
- ☐ 3. Have you included your 1st quarter senior grades or quarter/semester progress report?
- ☐ 4. Have you included your Official Student Score Report (or copies) for your SAT/ACT scores?
- ☐ 5. Have you included your resume?
- ☐ 6. Have you written and included your personal letter/essay?
- ☐ 7. Have you included *three* letters of recommendation? Is one from a school faculty or staff member?
- ☐ 8. Have you included a recent photo of yourself?
- ☐ 9. Have you put your packet together in a double pocketed portfolio with your name on the cover?
- ☐ 10. Have you scheduled and/or completed your QME and CFA through the academy(ies) you are applying to?
- ☐ 11. Have you looked into securing nominations from **all sources** you are qualified to receive them from? Check Academy websites for additional nomination options.
- ☐ 12. The Service Academies are extremely competitive. Have you thought about applying to more than one to give yourself the best opportunity to benefit from what they offer?